

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of altering the specific, systemic immune response of an individual to an endogenous tumor or specific antigen by the administration, directly or as a gene-product, of a soluble form of CD40, optionally in combination with a cytokine and/or cell-based or isolated antigen. The target antigen may be a tumor cell, a tumor cell antigen, or other antigen to which a systemic immune response is desirable. Co-administration of a soluble form of CD40 and GM-CSF provides effective immunotherapy directed towards the treatment and/or prevention of otherwise poorly immunogenic tumors.